

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly arranged to communicate at least one utility to a component located in a vacuum chamber, comprising a conduit constructed to communicate said at least one utility to said component, said component being moveable in said vacuum chamber, a conduit shield substantially enclosing a space comprising the ~~at least one~~ conduit and substantially separating said space from said vacuum chamber, said conduit shield being constructed and arranged to allow for movement of the component, wherein a vacuum generator is provided that is coupled to said space and which is constructed and arranged to provide a vacuum in said space comprising the ~~at least one~~ conduit.
2. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conduit shield comprises a conduit conduct to guide and shield said at least one conduit.
3. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said conduit conduct has at least two joints.
4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 3, wherein moving co-operating surfaces of said joints are furnished with vacuum seals.
5. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 4, wherein said vacuum seals are vacuum differential seals.
6. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 5, wherein said joints are further furnished with gas bearings.
7. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said conduit conduct comprises a motor in each of said at least two joints.

8. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 7, wherein said motor is a torque motor.
9. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said conduit conduct comprises at least one hollow elongate arm portion.
10. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 9, wherein said at least one hollow elongate arm portion is translatable along its elongate direction relative to another structure at a translation joint.
11. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 9, wherein one end of said at least one hollow elongate arm portion is rotatable about a joint.
12. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein an end opposite said one end of said at least one hollow elongate arm portion is rotatable about a second joint.
13. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein said joint has an angular range of motion of less than about 100°.
14. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 13, wherein said angular range of motion is less than about 90°.
15. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said vacuum provided with said vacuum generator to the space comprising the at least one conduit has a higher pressure than the pressure of a vacuum provided to said vacuum chamber.
16. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said component is an object table and said at least one conduit is constructed and arranged to communicate the utility to said object table.
17. (Previously Presented) An assembly arranged to communicate an utility to a component located in a first vacuum space in a vacuum chamber, said assembly comprising a

conduit and a conduit shield separating the first vacuum from a second vacuum within which the conduit is disposed.

18. (Currently Amended) A lithographic projection apparatus, comprising:  
a radiation system that provides a beam of radiation;  
a first object table adapted to support a patterning structure, the patterning structure serving to pattern the beam of radiation according to a pattern;  
a second object table for holding a substrate; and  
an assembly according to claim 17 arranged to communicate [[an]] a utility to one of the object tables or one of the components of the radiation system located in the first vacuum space in the vacuum chamber.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of providing [[an]] a utility through a conduit to a component located in a vacuum chamber comprising the steps of providing a first vacuum to the vacuum chamber while shielding the first vacuum from said conduit with a conduit shield and providing a second vacuum in a space comprising the conduit and separated from the first vacuum by the conduit shield.